

Message Text

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FOR HABIB FROM MARTINEZ

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 7740 ACTION SECSTATE, DIA, DAMASCUS
AMMAN, CAIRO, ALGIERS, JIDDA, LONDON, PARIS, TRIPOLI, USCINCEUR
DTD 28 SEP 76.

QTE: CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 7740

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: RENEWED FIGHTING IN LEBANON
REF: BEIRUT 7710

1. IT APPEARS THAT MAJOR BATTLE BETWEEN SYRIAN/
CHRISTIAN FORCES AND PLO/LEBANESE LEFTIST FORCES IS
NOW UNDER WAY IN MOUNTAINS OF THE HIGH METN.
ACCORDING TO LEFTIST RADIO LEBANON, SYRIAN/CHRISTIAN
FORCES OPENED THEIR ATTACK WITH ARTILLERY BARRAGE
AT DAWN SEPT 28 AND HAVE CONTINUED HEAVY SHELLING
AND ROCKET/MACHINE-GUN FIRE THROUGHOUT THE DAY.
SAME SOURCE SAYS SYRIANS ARE ADVANCING NORTHWEST
FROM ZAHLE AND FIRING FROM SOFAR AREA, WHILE
CHRISTIANS ARE MOVING SOUTH FROM BESKINTA. BOTH
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SIDES CLAIM THEY ARE INFILCTING HEAVY LOSSES ON THE

ENEMY, BUT THERE IS SO SAR LITTLE NEWS OF ACTUAL TROOP MOVEMENTS OR IMPORTANT PIECES OF TERRITORY THAT HAVE CHANGED HANDS. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS THAT SYRIAN/CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS OF LEBANESE ARMY ARE ENGAGED. LEFTIST RADIO LEBANON IS GIVING MUCH MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE FIGHTING AND HAS NOW REACHED REPORT NUMBER 15.

2. LEFTIST RADIO LEBANON ALSO SAYS YASSIR ARAFAT SENT MESSAGE TO ALL ARAB KINGS AND PRESIDENTS AND PHONED KING KHALID, QADDAFI AND BOUMEDIENNE SEPT 28, STATING THAT SYRIAN/CHRISTIAN FORCES ATTACKED WITHOUT PROVOCATION WHILE PALESTINIAN FORCES WERE MAINTAINING CEASEFIRE AND PLO WAS ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT PEACEFUL SOLUTION. (HE ALSO CHARGED ADDITIONAL SYRIAN FORCES HAVE ENTERED LEBANON.) HE CALLED ON ARAB LEADERS TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO STOP FIGHTING, WHICH COULD ONLY RESULT IN DAMAGE TO ALL ARAB NATIONS. RADIO LEBANON ALSO SAYS THAT SADAT CRITICIZED SYRIAN ATTACK IN HIS SEPT 28 SPEECH.

LANE UNQTE: ROBINSON

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